of generators is adequate to meet the demand.

Oil wells lying idle

2149. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of Oil wells which are lying idle in the country at present;

(b) since when they are lying idle;

(c) whether Government propose to take any foreign help for the commissioning of those wells so as to increase the oil production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Gassification of coal

2150. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to develop latest technology for gassification of coal in a manner which is cheap and suitable for our country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. is putting up a 100 tonnes per day fixed bed coal gassification plant at their works at Trichy for using the coal gas for power generation by combined cycle mode. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. is also setting up a fluidised bed coal gassification plant of 18 tonnes per day capacity at Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad.

Samples of Indian coals are being tested for their suitability for coal gassification.

2151. [*Transferred to the 19th March 1986*].

Shortage of electricity in Orissa

2152. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of electricity in Orissa, various industries, rural electrification programme and lift irrigation have been seriously affected and there is a sense of dis-satisfaction among the people;

(b) whether Government propose to send a Central team to study the situation and suggest remedial measures; and

(c) whether in view of low generation of electricity, Government propose to consider to establish Super Thermal Power Plant at the Talcher in order to meet such shortage of electricity during the Seventh Five Year Plan considering the backwardness of Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The power shortage in Orissa during April, 1985 to February, 1986 was about 18.4 per cent. The continued power shortage has mainly affected heavy and power intensive industries. Restrictions have also been imposed on power supply to other industries, rural supply and lift pumps.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Central Electricity Authority has accorded techno-economic approval to the proposal of National Thermal Power Corporation to implement the Talcher super thermal power project (Stage-I, 2x500 MW) in Orissa. The implementation schedule can be determined after availability of financial resources has been tied-up.